

## Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 140730Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9933

INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT, US

SUBJ: US ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

1. LATEST CONTRIBUTION TO EFFORTS OF THE LEFTISH ORIENTED PRESS IN ITALY TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION OF A CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) IN AMERICA CIRCLES IS AN ARTICLE IN LA REPUBBLICA OF SEPTEMBER 11 ENTITLE "WE ARE PERSUADED BY SEGRE". UTILIZING A HODGE-PODGE OF DOCUMENTS AND STATEMENTS THE ARTICLE FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON CHANGING ATTITUDES WITHIN THE CONGRESS WHERE, IT IS IMPLIED, AN INCREASED NUMBER OF MEMBERS ARE IN DISACCORD WITH THE CURRENT US POSITION TOWARDS THE PCI.

2. SPECIFIC MENTION IS GIVEN IN THE ARTICLE TO REPORTS AND STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES RYAN AND SOLARZ WHO, LAST SPRING, WERE PART OF THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL GROUP TO MEET WITH A PCI OFFICIAL IN ROME. EXCERPTS ARE TAKEN FROM A REPORT ALLEGEDLY PREPARED BY RYAN FOLLOWING A 1975 VISIT TO ROME, AT WHICH TIME HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN DISCOURAGED FROM MEETING PCI OFFICIALS BY THE EMBASSY. ADDITIONALLY, RYAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT "THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ARE NOT THE DEVIL WHICH OUR SECRETARY OF STATE BELIEVES THEM TO BE, AND I THINK

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THAT A FORM OF ACCORD COULD BE REACHED WITHOUT COMPROMISING

AMERICAN INTERESTS IN ITALY." RYAN IS ALSO ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID THAT "IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE COMPACTNESS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF WHICH THE PCI GIVES PROOF AS AN APPARATUS ARE SOME OF THEIR POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS. EVERY PARTY WHICH WISHES REALLY TO COUNT AS A POLITICAL FORCE SHOULD BE THE SAME."

3. SOLARZ IS REPORTED TO BE ESSENTIALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH THE POSITION OF RYAN. ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH SEGRE, HE "SEES MINIMAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THE PCI, AS SEGRE ILLUSTRATED THEM, AND THOSE OF OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES." HE ADDS THAT "IN THE CONGRESS THERE IS A WIDESPREAD (WORD MISSING) FOR PCI PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE POINT OF VIEW OF KISSINGER ENJOYS VERY LIMITED SUPPORT."

4. THE FINAL ITEM REFERRED TO IN THE "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTAGE IS A REPORT PREPARED PRIOR TO THE JUNE ELECTIONS BY THE "OFFICE OF STUDIES OF THE CONGRESS" ENTITLED "COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS: PROSPECTS AND IMPLICATIONS". ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, WHICH QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM THE STUDY, ITS ANALYSIS WAS EXTREMELY PENETRATING AND ITS PREDICTIONS, FOR THE MOST PART, WERE QUITE ACCURATE.

5. ASIDE FROM DISTURBING DRIFT OF ARTICLE, OTHER FEATURE WHICH MAKES IT PARTICULARLY DISAGREEABLE IS FACT THAT RYAN IN A WRITTEN REPORT TALKS OF 1975 CONVERSATIONS WITH MFA OFFICIALS JOSEPH NITTI AND DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS EUGENIO GAJA (SHOULD READ PLAJA) AS WELL AS WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICER COL. GIUSEPPE D'AMBROSIO. RYAN'S REPORT ALLEGEDLY QUOTES PRIVATE PREDICTIONS OF EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON EVOLVING ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. COMMENT: PLAYBACK IN ITALIAN PRESS OF PERSONAL VIEWS EXPRESSED IN CONFIDENCE DURING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY DCM CAN ONLY MAKE MORE DIFFICULT TASK OF ARRANGING FOR MEETINGS WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS FOR FUTURE CODELS, AND THEREFORE THESE INDISCRETIONS, IF THEY OCCURRED AS REPORTED IN LA REPUBBLICA, ARE PARTICULARLY REGRETABLE FROM THE EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW. END COMMENT.BEAUDRY

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 SEP 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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